

## **New Milton Table Tennis Players Let Their Hair Down Again**

**Following the success of New Milton Table Tennis Club's dinner at the Amberwood this time last year, the Club decided to repeat the experience at the same place this year.**

They say that it never pays to go back, but the evening was another outstanding success with exactly the same number of club members and guests in attendance.

The Club's committee was well represented in the shape of Chairman Bob Fagan and his wife Sandy, Treasurer/Press Officer Malcolm Floyd and his wife Helen, Secretary Bev Scott-Johns, Welfare Officer James Lewis and Brian Vibert (Coaching Officer). Shaun Newcomb (Development Officer) was unable to attend because he was competing in the ETTA English National Championships over the weekend.

In his after-dinner speech, Secretary Bev Scott-Johns welcomed the twenty two members and guests and thanked the F team's John Parkhouse and his wife Sue for making the arrangements again. Bev gave a brief resume of the past year in which he pointed out a large number of club achievements. A club record of eight teams were entered in the Bournemouth and District league this year and last year the "C" and "F" teams were champions of Div 3 and Div 5 respectively. The A team were runners-up in Div 1 so returned to the Premier league and the B team were promoted to Div 1. This year the E team captained by James Lewis are strongly challenging for the Div 3 title and are only currently denied by games-difference.

Bev congratulated Gerard Redman for recently winning the Div 3 Individual Championship and Shaun Newcomb and Brian Vibert for winning the Men's Doubles title. He also congratulated Club Treasurer/Press Officer Malcolm Floyd for being awarded Press Officer of the Year 2009 by the English Table Tennis Association. Bev expressed thanks to coaches James Lewis, Alan Gordon, Gerard Redman, Dave Sutton & Brian Vibert for making such a success of the Bournemouth & District Junior Coaching sessions at Portchester School on Saturday mornings. Lewis, Gordon, Redman and Sutton gained their coaching badges (UKCC Level 1) this year to join the coaching strength with Vibert and Newcomb who gained their Level 1 and Level 2 badges respectively last year. The Club is also actively working towards gaining the prestigious CLUBMARK accreditation.

Bev also mentioned the new coaching and practice sessions at the Arnewood School on Thursdays which have got off to a promising start and he thanked Brian Vibert for his hard work in getting this off the ground. Bev closed by saying that the campaign to save the Mudeford Wood Community Centre continues and that he was on the recently formed Panel set up to liaise with the Christchurch Borough Council.

There followed the raffle conducted by Malcolm Floyd in his inimitable style with the prizes donated by club members, and £38 was raised for club funds.

The evening was hailed as a great success by members and guests who were already talking about doing it all over again next year. Thanks must also go to the Amberwood for providing such excellent food in a very pleasant and relaxed atmosphere.

New Milton Table Tennis Club are the third biggest club in the Bournemouth and District Table Tennis league, but they are always on the lookout for new members from novices to experienced players. They have eight teams in the league and are represented across all six divisions from the Premier to Div 5. They play their home league matches at the Mudeford Wood Community Centre on Monday and Wednesday nights. Club nights are held at Sway Village Hall on most Sunday evenings from 6.30 pm.

The Club has also recently introduced junior coaching and adult open sessions at the Arnewood School on Thursdays. The junior coaching starts at 6.30pm and runs until 8pm at a cost of £2 per week. The adult sessions run from 8pm to 10pm and cost £2.50 a week. For more information on any of the club's activities please contact Bev Scott-Johns on 01425 619552.